

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE TITLE

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the number of reservation acceptable jobs is set to satisfy $N2 \geq N1$, based on the number $N1$.

The claims have also been amended to make some clarifying amendments, including some minor grammatical improvements and corrections of some minor antecedent basis problems, so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,535,702 ("Takatsu") and

USP 6,654,140 ("Hirata"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

Takatsu has been cited as disclosing, in particular, reserving a plurality of jobs, where there exists a maximum number of jobs that can be reserved.

It should be noted that, according to the portion of Takatsu cited by the Examiner (column 9, lines 19-29), the maximum number of reservation jobs is defined by the limitations of screen space on which tabs corresponding to the job reservations are displayed.

Hirata has been cited as disclosing a conveyance path, and for defining a maximum number of sheets on the conveyance path.

Independent claims 1 and 10, however, have been amended to more clearly recite that the number of reservation acceptable jobs N2 is set to satisfy $N2 \geq N1$, based on the number N1. And as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 10, N1 is a maximum number of the conveyed transfer papers that can be present at the same time on the conveyance path of the transfer paper from the start of the feeding to the end of the exiting in the image forming device.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Takatsu does not disclose a maximum number of transfer papers on a conveyance path. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Takatsu clearly does

not disclose, teach or suggest setting a number of reservation of reservation acceptable jobs $N2$ to satisfy $N2 \geq N1$, based on the number $N1$, where $N1$ is defined as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Indeed, as noted above, according to the portion of Takatsu cited by the Examiner (column 9, lines 19-29), the maximum number of reservation jobs is defined by the limitations of screen space on which tabs corresponding to the job reservations are displayed.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Hirata does not disclose setting a number of reservation acceptable jobs based on the maximum number of sheets on a conveyance path as recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted therefore that, even in combination, Takatsu and Hirata do not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention recited in amended independent claims 10 and 10 whereby a number of reservation of reservation acceptable jobs $N2$ is set to satisfy $N2 \geq N1$, based on the number $N1$, where $N1$ is defined as a maximum number of the conveyed transfer papers that can be present at the same time on the conveyance path of the transfer paper from the start of the feeding to the end of the exiting in the image forming device.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that although Hirata discloses a "maximum number of cycling sheets" at column 4, lines 53-54 (as pointed out by the Examiner), this

paper path in Hirata is the paper conveyance path in the cycle from the paper resupply unit through the horizontal conveyance rollers 88a to 88c to the timing roller 84. That is, the paper path disclosed at column 5, lines 45-54 of Hirata et al is a cyclic paper path which runs from the timing roller 84 back to the timing roller 84 via the paper resupply unit 600 and the rollers 88a to 88c.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 10, the conveyance path extends from a start of feeding of the transfer paper to an end of exiting of the transfer paper in the image forming device. For example, the conveyance path runs from feeding cassettes to an exit tray in an image forming device. And according to claims 1 and 10, where N1 is a maximum number of the conveyed transfer papers that can be present at the same time on the conveyance path of the transfer paper from the start of the feeding to the end of the exiting in the image forming device.

Thus, the maximum number of cycling sheets disclosed by Hirata and pointed to by the Examiner does not correspond to the number N1 according to claims 1 and 10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that even if the combination of Takatsu and Hirata suggested by the Examiner were reasonable, the resultant combination would not disclose or fairly suggest setting a number of reservation

acceptable jobs N2 to satisfy $N2 \geq N1$, based on the number N1, where N1 is a maximum number of the conveyed transfer papers that can be present at the same time on the conveyance path of the transfer paper from the start of the feeding to the end of the exiting in the image forming device, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 10, and claims 2-9 and 11-18 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Takatsu and Hirata under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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